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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT Tuesday, May 10, 1932.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "Underwear to Suit the Season." Information from Miss Clarice Scott, Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

This is a season to consider the style both in the clothes you wear on top and in the clothes you wear underneath. That's what my Next-Door Neighbor announced to me yesterday when she dropped in for a chat after a day of shopping.

"Well, Aunt Sammy," said she, "I may be up-to-date about some things, but I've fallen behind the times on certain parts of my wardrobe. I've been using the same patterns for years for slips and petticoats. But the very next job of dressmaking I do will be to make some under garments to suit this year's styles and also to remodel what I have on hand."

Then she told me her shopping adventures.

"There was such a pretty green dress in one window that I couldn't resist going in and trying it on. It was just my size, just the right color, just the right price and just what I need for summer wear. But when I put it on, it looked funny on me. Yes, actually funny. There were bunches and bulges around the waist and over the hips.

"'What's the matter with this dress?' I asked the clerk. Then she suggested very tactfully that the trouble wasn't with the dress but with the clothes I was wearing under it. They were too full of gathers to suit this year's styles. Smooth fitting styles naturally require smooth fitting garments underneath. The gathered slips, petticoats and bloomers of other seasons are too full to make the right foundation. And waists, Aunt Sammy. You know how they've gone up this season. Many outfits are fitted not only over the hips but also at the waistline and even a little above. You can see how gathers underneath around the waist would spoil the smooth lines."

I had been planning to make some summer under-wear myself and after my Neighbor's story I thought I'd better be sure that I made the right kind. So I went over to see my friend Miss Scott, the clothing specialist. I wanted some of her helpful advice. So I asked her how to make undergarments that would be smooth and lie flat yet would allow freedom of movement. That used to be provided by gathers.

She told me that there are several ways of solving this problem. You can cut garments on the bias. That will allow "give" without gathers. Most of the newest slips are on the bias. Or you can use gores to make the garment fit the

body. Petticoats, bloomers, panties and one-piece foundation garments with gores can all be made to fit at the waist and lie smooth. Or you can use a yoke at the top of bloomers, panties and skirts. This yoke will be fastened at the side by such inconspicuous fastenings as very flat buttons or hooks and eyes. The right underwear gives the figure a smooth line but is perfectly comfortable and allows for plenty of movement.

Once started on this subject of foundation garments I had no end of questions to ask.

First, about those new bias cut slips. Since this is a feminine year, Miss Scott told me that many of these are made with a little lace at the top and around the skirt. Others are plain and are simply bound around the top and bottom. When you choose lace, be sure it's good quality and not conspicuous. Color is a factor here too. I know a lady who has a pink slip trimmed with ecru lace. By itself it's a beauty. But it spoils any light colored dress she wears it with because the contrast in colors makes it show through too plainly. A white or flesh color is best to choose for wear under summer dresses and the lace should match. It pays to keep to the simple and inconspicuous in both the color and the decoration of all underwear.

Some of the new slips are made with brassiere tops with bias or fitted skirts attached just under the brassiere line. Others are bias from top to bottom. Even seams in underwear may spoil the effect of these new smooth fitting dresses, Watch very carefully when you are buying either a pattern or a slip to see where the seam lines come. For wear with evening clothes, or in fact, with any dresses made of soft fabrics see that the undergarments have most of the seams high, rather than in the skirt or around the hip line.

I asked Miss Scott about petticoats. Petticoats should be smooth and comfortable, like other garments, but they should also be shadow-proof. Miss Scott suggested the fitted wrap-around skirt. This is very slim in line, is shadow proof and is very comfortable for walking, if it doesn't overlap too far. Too much overlapping means that it binds, so try the pattern carefully before you cut, to see that it doesn't wrap around too far. For the person who doesn't walk much, a plain simple slip skirt is suitable.

Then there's the question of what basic garment to choose. Whether you choose a girdle, a corselette, or a soft knit one-piece garment depends on your figure and on the kind of activity you indulge in. Girdles and corselettes with hose supporter in the back won't be suitable for the woman who does a lot of stooping. It will be hard on the supporter and hard on the hose. The soft knitted one piece garment fitted to the body but without extra support like stays is suitable for the slender woman. The fabric itself allows enough elasticity for comfort and movement yet gives a firm foundation for clothes. Of course, such a garment must be washed each night if it is to keep its shape. This, of course, is also good practice for your comfort and health in summer. In choosing a girdle there again comes this question of keeping it clean. A smooth and not too heavy fabric is easiest to keep clean. Most girdles, rubber and otherwise, can be washed with soap and water applied with a brush. For hot-weather a girdle made with a double layer of net is often most comfortable.

"When you choose girdles or other garments with stocking supporters," suggested Miss Scott, "it pays to look those supporters over carefully. I had a pair once that cut every stocking I fastened them to. And I have had others that

were bulky and thick. Choose supporters with fastenings as flat as possible. Those that protrude are uncomfortable and will cause bulge in your new smooth-fitting dress."

All kinds of fastenings on underwear deserve serious consideration. They must be flat and inconspicious yet strong and comfortable. Many foundation garments now are equipped with slide fasteners.

"Now," I asked Miss Scott," what would you suggest for materials for summer underwear?"

Silk, she told me, is always popular. If it is of good quality it lasts well, looks well, keeps in shape and is easy to launder. Just now when a lot of us are making our clothes at home it's good news that good quality silks have gone down in price and silk by the yard is much less expensive than last year or previous years. There are also the rayons and other silk-like fabrics which cost even less and which many people like for underwear. Then for summer many of the homemade garments may be made of such thin cool cotton fabrics as batiste and nainsook.

That's all about foundation garments today.

Now for a couple of hints I've collected here and there that my friends have found helpful in this job of keeping up the wardrobe.

There's a trick to washing gloves successfully. Lukewarm suds and a little brush are two things that aid in the process. Wash the gloves on the hands just as if you were washing your hands. If the tips of the fingers are badly soiled, use a nail brush to clean them. Then, instead of wringing or squeezing out the moisture after you have removed the wet gloves from your hands, blow into the gloves and hang them up. This will allow them to dry in shape without wrinkles.

Here's another hint for the woman who is tinting or dyeing. To prevent stains on your hands, tie the dye in a piece of cheesecloth and put it in the soap shaker. Then dissolve the dye by shaking the shaker in the warm water. Of course, Rubber gloves also save the hands when doing a job like this.

TOMORROW: "More questions and a week-end menu."